THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Ministry of Tourism in consultation with the State Governments have identified 61 pilgrim centres for tourism development. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance for projects/ schemes which are prioritized in consultation with them every year. During the last three years an amount of Rs. 508.00 lakhs has been sanctioned for 27 projects covering wayside amenities, public conveniences, drinking water facilities, accommodation unites, etc. at pilgrim centres such as Tirupati, Bodhgaya, Ujjain, Nizamuddin, Amritsar, Rameshwaram, Ponta Sahib, Jwalaji, etc.

(b) to (d) Ministry of Tourism has not received any proposal from the State Government to include Durga Hatkoti Temple as a Tourist Pilgrim Centre during 2000-2001. However, Central Government has provided financial assistance for construction of a Tourist Lodge at Hatkoti in 1987-88.

Objectives of Celebrating "India Tourism Week'

2114. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government celebrated India Tourism Week recently at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the main objects/highlights of these celebrations and expenditure incurred thereon.

(c) whether Government were able to create widespread awareness regarding the Indian tourism product, its potential and the impact which tourism can make on the various sector of the economy; and

(d) if so, with what results indicating also tourism challenges in the new millenium and budgetary allocations made during this year as compared to previous financial year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) India Tourism Week was celebrated from 19th to 25th January, 2000 in New Delhi. India International Tourism Expo & Mart from 22nd to 24th January, 2000 in New Delhi at Paragati Maidan was held as part of the India Tourism Week.

(b) The main objectives were:

(1) To create awareness among the general public and to provide exposure to tourism industry.

(2) To showcase the Indian Tourism Product under one roof.

(3) To enlarge overseas participation and position India International Tourism Expo & Mart as a major forum in South Asia for travel and tourism.

The highlights included various tourism related seminars, cultural performances, India Tourism Day/National Tourism Award function etc.

Expenditure on the celebrations by Ministry of Tourism is estimated at Rs. 12.45 lakhs.

(c) Yes, Sir, Government was able to showcase all the segments of Travel & Tourism Industry under one roof to the Indian and Overseas Trade and consumers.

(d) The arrivals have shown an upward trend during 1999 by 5.2% over 1998. The budgetary plan allocation is:

1998-99	Rs. 109.68 Crores
1999-2000	Rs. 110.00 Crores (RE)

Promotion of Tourism in Assam

2115. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for better promotion of tourism in the State of Assam received by the Central Government during the last three years;

(b) the number of proposals approved and rejected by Government during this period; and

(c) the financial assistance proposed to be provided by Government of Assam during the next three years for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Development of tourism is undertaken by the State Governments. However, to supplement their efforts, Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance for tourism projects prioritised in consultation with them every year. 28 projects have been sanctioned to the State of Assam during last three years for an amount of Rs.1821.48 lakhs. During the year 1999-2000, 20 projects have been prioritised for an amount of Rs.723.00 lakhs.